



It has been as short time ago that Mrs. Delores McKerry "Dee" retired in December, 2012, after working 48 years in the field of education. Twenty-eight of those years were with the Bureau of Indian Education, Western Agency, Tuba City, Arizona. These years were spent in the classroom and onto various administrative functions at schools and agency office. In 1994 Dee was offered early retirement from the federal government which she took. She then spent the next 18 years as the State Director for the Navajo Nation State Office for the North Central Association/AdvancED for the Department of Navajo Education, Window Rock, AZ. The AdvancED's purpose is to bring quality to drive institutions to use the accreditation process to improve effective practices in support of student learning. In this role she worked with all the schools, public, federal and tribal, across the Navajo Nation.

Dee attributes her successful educational career to various educational leaders that believed in her and her capabilities to lead in the various schools with a strong community support. Dee is Dine', originally from Kayenta, Arizona and is Bitter Water and is born for Cliff Dwellers. She holds a BS. in Elementary Education and M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education and Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ.

Upon Dee's arrival to Page, Arizona in 2012, she spent time volunteering at Lakeview Elementary School, where she had two grandchildren in attendance, along with one at Page Middle School and another at Page High School. Today, she has two grandchildren at Page High School and two at Desert View Elementary School. At each given day, she and her husband will pick up the grandchildren, take them home, engaged in their school day activities and begin the homework task. Dee is a hard task orientated individual and expects her grandchildren to do well in school.

"Do well in school" is easier said than done. This is the reason Dee decided to run for PUSD school board. She believes she can make a difference in the lives of the children, parents and communities they represent with her experiences.

After reading the most recent educational report, she is concerned with the AIMS "C" grade, staff turnover, and minimal parental involvement in the classrooms in PUSD. While great educators can help put a child on the path to success, parents play an important role, too. If Dee is supported by the public in the upcoming election, she will further pursue improvements in teaching and learning with a strong parental involvement to support staff sustainable for improvements.